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21 December 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Representative Paul Rogers (D., Fla.)
re Agency Relations with Congress

- 25X1
1. This afternoon, on instructions from the Director
[redacted] I met with Representative Rogers and explained that the Director had gotten the impression that Rogers had some problem with the Agency, and if so we would like to find out about it and try to clear it up.
 2. Mr. Rogers said he had no criticism of the Agency, and indeed thought well of it, but he had on several occasions criticized the Congress for the way it handled Agency matters. He said he felt the two House Subcommittees who had jurisdiction over the Agency failed to keep other members of Congress informed and did not adequately discharge their responsibilities in keeping a close watch on what the Agency was up to. He again emphasized that he was in no way criticizing the Agency, but he did feel strongly that it would be to the Agency's--and to the Congress'--advantage if a watchdog committee was established, similar to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, to look over the intelligence activities of various Government departments.
 3. I told Mr. Rogers that I was familiar with his point, and indeed had heard the same thing from other members of Congress who were friends of the Agency. However, I emphasized that we have always taken a "hands off position" on this issue, since we feel that it is entirely up to Congress to decide how it wants to handle Agency matters. I said we of course would gladly cooperate with any arrangements the Congress decided upon.

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25X1 4. In response to his question about Cienfuegos, I filled Mr. Rogers in on our latest information on that area, and also explained about which he inquired.

JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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